



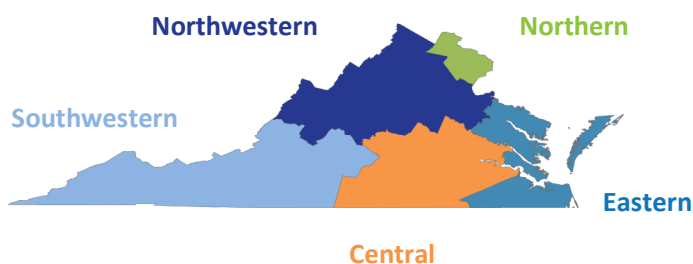
It is time for the Virginia Youth Survey again!

The Virginia Youth Survey will be administered in the fall of 2013 in randomly selected Virginia middle and high schools. This year is the first year the Virginia Youth Survey and the Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey will be combined into one (1) survey without an increase in the number of questions. The surveys are being combined in an effort to reduce the loss of instruction time in the classroom.

Virginia Youth Survey (VYS) Quick Facts

- The VYS focuses on priority risk behaviors established during youth that result in the most harm during both youth and adulthood.
- Questions cover topic areas including: tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; behaviors that result in injury and violence; unhealthy dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity.
- No questions will be asked about sexual behavior.
- Regional VYS data will be available by the summer of 2014. (See the map below for the regions)
- Student's privacy is protected.

Five Health Regions in Virginia



Next Steps

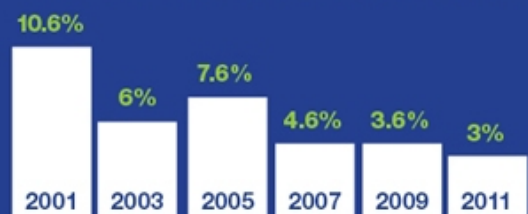
- Review the Virginia Youth Survey Packet.
- Select a date for the survey to be administered in October or November of 2013.
- Designate a school contact to work with VYS staff on logistics and parental notification.
- Fax the School Participation Form (please return ASAP).
- Review the survey and call VYS staff with any questions.

High School Smoking in Virginia



Source: Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey, 2001-2011,
Virginia Youth Survey, Virginia Department of Health, 2011
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

Middle School Smoking in Virginia



Source: Virginia Youth Tobacco Survey, 2001-2011,
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

The Virginia Youth Survey is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth with support from Virginia Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2013 Virginia Youth Survey

Commonly Asked Questions

Does the VYS have broad support? Yes. The survey is supported by major national organizations interested in the health of youth including: The American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of State Boards of Education, and the National PTA.

What is the sample size? This year approximately 20,714 students from 135 high schools and 135 middle schools will be scientifically selected to participate in the survey.

How long does it take to fill out the questionnaire? One class period is needed. It takes approximately 10 minutes for the survey to be distributed and directions given. It then takes approximately 35 minutes for students to complete. It takes a total of 45 minutes for the survey.

Is student participation anonymous? How is student privacy protected? Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. Students complete the self-administered questionnaire by recording their responses directly on an answer sheet containing no personal identifiers. To the extent possible, students' desks are spread throughout the classroom to minimize the chance that students will see each other's responses. Students also are encouraged to use an extra sheet of paper to cover their responses. Published reports do not include names of counties, cities, school divisions, schools or students.

What if school districts, or schools, choose not to participate? Participation in the Virginia Youth Survey is required by Virginia law, section § 32.1-73.8. Selected schools cannot be replaced. In order to develop accurate regional Virginia estimates of priority health risk behaviors among adolescents, participation rates must be high. Parents of students can choose to exclude their child from participating.

What grades are included? The Virginia Youth Survey is administered to students in grades 6 through 12.

Do students answer questions truthfully? Yes. Research indicates data of this nature may be gathered as reliably from adolescents as from adults. Internal reliability checks help to identify the small percentage of students who falsify their answers. To obtain truthful answers, students must perceive the survey as important and know procedures have been developed to protect their privacy and allow for anonymous participation.

Are students tracked over time to see how their behavior changes? No. Each time the survey is done a new sample of schools and students is drawn. Students who participated cannot be tracked because no identifying information is collected.

How is the Virginia Youth Survey coordinated at each school? It is preferable to have a single coordinator in each school. This can be the principal, another administrator or a teacher. The coordinator provides a list of class sections, distributes parental permission forms to teachers of the sampled classes, helps to promote the survey in the school and ensures a high participation rate.

The Virginia Youth Survey Packet includes:

- Timeline
- 2013 Virginia Youth Survey Instrument
- School Participation Form (please return ASAP)
- Parental Notification Form and Survey Fact Sheet
- Instructions and Script for Survey Administrators
- Assurance of Confidentiality of Survey Data for Survey Administrators

For additional information, please contact us by-

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